

Crossroads Web site provides family, community information

By Marie Vanover

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Marking its one-year anniversary, the Air Force's official family and community Web site, Air Force Crossroads, continues to be a valuable resource for Air Force people and their families.

The Crossroads site, www.afcrossroads.com, pools Web resources from across the Air Force and Department of Defense into a single location to meet the growing need for family and community information.

Designed to support the mobile military lifestyle, Crossroads provides service information and content for all members of the Air Force community.

Since its inception a year ago, the Web site has expanded its forums to include spouse and employment bulletin board message centers. Additionally, a new spouse forum has been added, which provides access to a variety of Air Force topics.

"The forum recognizes the role spouses play in managing the family during moves and separations," said Gale Johnson, Air Education and Training Command relocation manager. "The site assists them in dealing with routine and extraordinary circumstances that often occur."

Speaking from experience, Larry Weed said what he liked most about the spouse forum was "a person would check in periodically and check on people with valid concerns."

Weed is the spouse of Capt. Dee Ann Weed. The couple arrived at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, about two weeks ago.



The spouse forum provides an opportunity for spouses to learn from each other and share their experiences, information and resources, Johnson said. The site's chat rooms offer spouses a new and affordable way to communicate with one another, their distant family members and deployed service members at the click of a button. An Air Force teens and youth forum is available as well.

Crossroads provides one-stop shopping for information on installations, schools and local areas to help ease the permanent change-of-station transition process.

"The site explained how to move our car to Eielson," said Larry Weed said. "It listed tips from what type of oil to use to the type of road conditions we could expect to encounter."

The educational resources section comes complete with performance evaluations, scholarship information, and resources for special needs and home-schooling families.

The employment section offers a database where family members can search for jobs at their new location and post their resumes online.

The site continues to expand to meet the needs of Air Force members and their families., Johnson said.

"With the upcoming summer PCS moves, now is a good time to check out the Crossroads Web site," she said. "Information is updated continuously to assist our folks with the daily demands of their military lifestyle."

The site is publicly accessible from home to members of the Air Force community once they have registered. Forum membership is certified through verification of personal information, and access requires a user name and password.

"I hope the site continues to grow," Larry Weed said. "There is a lot of information out there, and it can be difficult finding what you want and need. Bringing all of it together is very beneficial, and Crossroads is doing that."

Senior military leaders talk airpower issues at Air Boss Conference in Osan

By Capt. Michael Butler

607th Combat Plans Squadron

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea — Osan Air Base hosted the 2001 Air Boss Conference May 21-22, bringing together more than three-dozen senior leaders to talk about air power on the Korean peninsula.

"The Air Boss Conference brings air combat leaders here to Osan to discuss their responsibilities in support of the Combined Forces Command, should hostilities erupt on the peninsula," said Maj. Ron Hanselman, Air Boss Conference coordinator. "It's a very diverse group of aviators. We have experience coming not only from the Air Force, but the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps as well."

Lt. Gen. Charles R. Heflebower, 7th Air Force commander, added, "We have a very unique opportunity here - to bring together air warriors from both the ROKAF and U.S. air combat units and meet in the actual combat theater. It's crucial we familiarize them with the Korean theater of operations, because we may have to fight here some day."

The 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan Air Base is a subordinate unit under 7th Air Force.

During their stay here, attendees received briefings from 7th Air Force and ROK personnel about airpower capabilities in theater, the chemical weapon threat, and integrating U.S. and Republic of Korea air power. They also received tours of the Hardened Theater Air Control Center and the Korean Combat Operations Intelligence Center.

Gen. Thomas Schwartz, commander in chief, U.S.

Forces Korea, addressed the conference Monday.

"The biggest mistake we can make is to think hostilities will never happen here," Schwartz said. "Should we ever have to fight here, airpower will be crucial. Our joint force structure and strong U.S.-ROK alliance enhances not only Korean stability, but regional stability as well."

Schwartz challenged the group to look at the obstacles and challenges that exist in Korea and come up with effective ways to overcome them.

"We have the best

airpower force in the world ... put on your warrior hats and give us good ideas so we maximize our combat power," the general said.

The conference also received a briefing on the air battle plan, a brief that Schwartz called "the best I've ever seen."

On Tuesday, the conference adjourned with a work-



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Scottie McCord

Army Gen. Thomas Schwartz, U.S. Forces Korea commander, addresses the Air Boss Conference May 21 at 7th Air Force Headquarters, Osan Air Base.

ing group designed to formulate recommendations on improving air combat operations in the Korean theater.

"The Air Boss Conference always gives us great ideas on improving our capability," said Hanselman. "Not only that, but they improve the continuity in a theater with a yearly turnover of over 90 percent. We look forward to having them back next year."